LAHOMA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
STILLWATER

ULAR OF INFORMATION NO. 24 DECEMBER, 1913

BURN THE BUGS

E GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION

refore, I. Lee Cruce, Governor of the State ahoma, designate Thursday, December 18, s a day to be observed by the farmers, road rs, railway employes and other interested and call upon them to destroy all hiding where chinchbugs are known to have their winter quarters; and should this day, of rain or other reasons, be such as the tion cannot be observed, then I request e first day thereafter that is suitable be d for this purpose.

itness whereof, I have hereunto set my d caused to be affixed the Great Seal of e of Oklahoma, this, the 1st day of De- 1913.

ned) LEE CRUCE,
Governor of Oklahoma.

Full Grown Chinchbug, Enlarged.

stive Rules Relative to the Burning of Hibernating Places of Chinchbugs and Other Insects

ccordance with the above proclamation, I suggest rules and ideas that may be of ade in the burning of weeds, trash and grass bordering public highways, private roadnd overgrown fields in general. The vegein all public highways and roadways should ned off on the first date mentioned above if egetation is dry enough to burn. If wet er prevents, then the burning should be s soon thereafter as possible.

local road overseers or supervisors should ally take full and complete charge of this ay work. The owners or managers of adfarms should be present and cooperate by ing the orders of the supervisor, and conhe work by burning off their own fields lyjacent to the roadway, and to the railway re be one) in cooperation with its section an. In doing this each manager can protect shade trees and feedstuff, such as hay and acks, that might otherwise be lost by fire. rmore, the county farm advisers should be tial and see to it that experiment work for the following year is not hampered either possibly by the burning or by insects that can be controlled by burning.

Protection should be allowed for the wild birds, such as the quail, pheasant and meadowlark. Since all grass, weeds and underbrush is to be burned along and in highways, it stands to reason that the birds will be driven out from such protection. Consequently necessary protection on farms, such as copses of overgrown vines and weeds in a draw, or, preferably, along the bluff line of a ravine, should be left undisturbed until springtime. During the winter the birds can seek protection from hawks, varmints and inclement weather in such a preserve. Screenings or even good kafir corn or other small grain seeds can be scattered in these preserves for the purpose of attracting the birds there, and for their subsistence during cold weather, especially when snow is on the ground. Such a preserve should be near a watering place if possible. One or more preserves of this kind should always be prepared in the fall on every farm, regardless of fall burning or fall plowing. Later in the season when germination begins the new growth of weeds and grasses will afford ample protection for the birds. The preserves should then be burned off in order to destroy the chinchbug and similar insects, which will be issuing from the protection of the roots of the grasses and from beneath the trash.

The fact should be emphasized that tracts consisting of more than eighty acres of wild hay land should not be burned over at one time, because of the bad effect on the birds which are living there. Tracts of wild hay land should be divided and the alternate divisions burned on different days, thus affording the birds ample time to become familiar with the new conditions. Some farm managers will object to the burning of hay lands or pasture lands at this season of the year, believing that either the value of feed thereon or the value to be derived from the vegetation as humus should not be destroyed by burning. Such is, indeed, a fact, but the cost of feeding Oklahoma chinchbugs has become exorbitant and ravages of the bug will continue to increase unless proper methods are used for controlling it. Since no practical methods can be used when the bugs are destroying wheat and oat fields, let every one interested in the proposal strike a match at the proper time, which is as Governor Lee Cruce has designated.

Special Request to Railway Managers

The Department of Entomology at the State A. and M. College has been highly gratified in previous years by your hearty cooperation in the burning of insect hibernating places along your rights of way throughout the State, for the benefit of its agricultural farming adjacent to your property. We believe from past experience along this line that you will again cooperate and, consequently, call your attention to the above proclamation and request.

Respectfully,
C. E. SANBORN,
State Entomologist.

--Persons receiving extra copies of this circular will please distribute same to their friends who may be interested in controlling the chinch bug.